(d) the present status of the proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A statement showing the details of the proposal is annexed *(See Appendix 185, Annexure No. 9).*

(c) 'and (d) The Tariff Authority has accepted the proposal for consideration and it is being processed in accordance with the prescribed procedures.

Improvement of National Highway-53

292. SHRI W. ANGOU SINGH: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state;

(a) the amount of fund released for the improvement of National Highway-53 in the area of Manipur for the year 1997-98 and 1998-99;

(b) whether a new National Highway via Manipur and Mizoram is contemplated during the Ninth Five Year Plan; and

(c) if so, when it will be started?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) Fund released for improvement of National Highway-53 in Manipur:

(i) 1997-98 — Rs. 10.70 crore
(ii) 1998-99 — Rs. 12.30 crore

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Work will be started after Gazette notification of new national .highway, which is yet to be done.

Expansion of Mumbai-Ahmedabad-Baroda Highway

293. SHRI BANGARU LAXMAN: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the work on Mumbai-Ahmedabad-Baroda Express Highway which was contracted to M/s Continental Constructions Company in April 1986 is going to be undertaken soon ;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) Whether it is a fact that the company has demanded more funds;

(d) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto;

(e) whether Government propose to make the Highway into 4 lanes instead of 2 lanes in view of the huge traffic on the route; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The balance work of Ahmedabad-Vadodara Expressway would be executed in two phases by the National Highways Authority of India as per details given below:

(i) Phase I Ahmedabad to Nadiad (Km 0/0 to Km 43.4) and

(ii) Phase II Nadiad to Vadodara (Km. 43.4 to Km 93.302).

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. However, the demand was not accepted by the Government.

(e) and (f) Yes, Sir. The proposals for pre-qualification of contractors for the phase-I works have been invited by NHAI.

माफिया द्वारा बस मालिकों से अवैध रूप से धन लिया जाना

294.**श्री ईश दत्त यादव**:

प्रो.रामगोपाल यादव:

क्या जल-भूतल परिवहन मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या सरकार को यह जानकारी है कि गाजियाबाद से दिल्ली,नोएडा और ए एल टी और जो अन्य बसें चलती हैं उनसे बम माफिया जबरन दिल्ली पुलिस,परिवहन विभाग दिल्ली,गाजियाबाद पुलिस और परिवहन विभाग को नजराना देने के नाम पर 15 लाख